

"Play Ball!" Will Be the Umpire's Cry To-day Upon Opening of Pennant Season in National and American Leagues

START TO-DAY ON PENNANT CHASE

Braves at Polo Grounds, Yankees in Philadelphia, Phillips in Brooklyn.

LEADERS HERE CONFIDENT

Giants Acquire King Lear and Huggins Releases Cluster of Recruits.

How the Giants and Braves Will Line Up

GIANTS.
Burke, M.
Young, R.
Fletcher, W.
Dwyer, T.
Kemp, J.
Patterson, E.
Kelly, J.
Gonzales, C.
Barney, R.
BRAVES.
Maranville, S.
Patterson, P.
Power, C.
Dwyer, T.
Hoyle, L.
Hobson, D.
Mann, M.
Wilson, C.
Rudolph, P.



BY WILLIAM B. HANNA.

Americans were sent away yesterday when the clouds were dark and the rain pouring. The appearance of the sun in the afternoon never caused more profound relief for the baseball season opens to-day—the baseball pennant season. The big league teams are through with their tuning up—all the elaborate and expensive spring preparation is over, and as the ball players put it, base hits will count beginning to-day.

"When are you going to begin hitting 'em?" somebody asked Babe Ruth in the South.

"I'll begin to-morrow," Babe said. "Ruth Johnson gets out his pencil. That's what he does in baseball. Ruth Johnson of the American and John Heydler of the National will have their pencils out for the next six months. Everything that's done from now on will be recorded. The real baseball season is on.

Gates will be opened both at the Polo Grounds and at Ebbets Field at 1 o'clock and the games will be called at 1 p.m. for the first time. The gates will be opened for both fans and the distinguished gentlemen who will throw out the new balls will be Mayor Hyman at the Polo Grounds and Charles Jenkins Edwards at Ebbets Field. That ancient ceremony disposed of each and every club will set out to win the pennant and to that end they will be striving their utmost as well as their darndest until next October.

Managers Are Sanguine.

John McGraw brought back from Texas last night and he believes he has as good a chance to win the pennant as anybody else has and better, too. Most Miller Huggins has a group of great hitting power and first class pitching, and when he says he has a strong ball club he means it. Wilbert Robinson doesn't see wherein the present Brooklyn is any weaker than the Brooklyn of 1915, who won a pennant. And he says that they will be striving to be better than the New York team, but they aren't a bit more so than the Cincinnati fan, or the Chicago, or the Cleveland, or the Pittsburgers or the Detroit. John Heydler, National League president, said yesterday that he was sure the race in his league would be close but that for some years, seeing that the clubs were more evenly matched, the National would be the stronger. Tom Yawkey, coxswain on at least five clubs of his league to be in the pennant running. Johnson went to Philadelphia with Col. Huston last night to see the Yankees open with the Athletics there, and Heydler will honor the game at the Polo Grounds with his presence. Essentially, Mr. Heydler honors any afternoon.

The Yankees were all ready to dash over to Philadelphia in automobiles if they couldn't get trains. Strikes don't stop baseball. The Boston Braves, including the inimitable Maranville, with the style all his own, have been whacking the Detroit full score this spring and need not be viewed as any particularly soft thing in the opening encounter.

The attendance at the Giants-Rod Sox games at the Polo Grounds and at the Yankees-Dodgers classics at Ebbets Field was capital—better than usual at exhibition games. The only inference from that is that interest in the championship races is lively, as much as it ever was, and was intense yesterday. The present season one for the National League and the twenty-first consecutive one for the American.

The Yankees management has cut loose from a cluster of recruits. H. L. Belfiester, infielder and pitcher; Ralph Miller, pitcher, and Chester Murphy, catcher, have been loaned to the Bronx. Mario De Vitalis, pitcher, has gone to San Francisco; Dan Murphy, catcher, is returned to Toledo, and Harry Geiser, outfielder, is released unconditionally.

King Lear, the infielder, who was with the Cubs last year and with Toronto previous to that, comes to the Giants through the waiver process. Chicago asked for waivers and McRaw refused. Lear is a good man with the stick.

Invitations have been sent to Gen. Pershing and Brig.-Gen. MacArthur of West Point to attend to-day's battle at the Polo Grounds, and boxes have been set aside for the distinguished fighting men. Both are expected to be there.

Sam Johnson's list of American League spitball pitchers, who are about to enter their last year of grace, was given out by him yesterday as follows: Russell, Red Sox; Quinn, Yankees; Faber and Cleote, White Sox; Galvin and Shoenker, St. Louis; Leonard and Ayres, Detroit; Coeleski and Caldwell, Cleveland.

Johnson and Col. Huston were together most of yesterday afternoon, so times have indeed changed since the advent of the piping days of peace. The last score of the late unpleasantness between the two Johnsons will see Heydler when he returns to Philadelphia. The old, old master of a ramshackle National Commission will be re-visited. The American League boys may be and Heydler understand each other pretty well as to the next chairman, but that there are several points of which the public wots not to be settled. Persuasion, arbitration, shipwrecks, a charman for the National Commission—all these things may happen some day.

The National League has adopted an American League device. It will have a sunken box near the home plate for the start of balls to be used during the game. The box to be in sole charge of the umpire. The sunken box is found expedient to carry out the new requirement that umpires rub the glass off bats before they are tossed into the game.

GIANTS vs. BOSTON TO-DAY, 3:30 P.M., Polo Grounds, Adm. \$1.50, Sat. \$2.50.

Captains of Six Teams in To-day's Games

'SLIPPERY ELM BEST IN THE OLD VIRGINIA'

Beats Small But Select Field of Handicap Horses at Bowie Track.

Special to THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD.

Baltimore, April 11.—Slippery Elm captured the Old Virginia handicap from a small but select field of handicap horses at the Bowie track this afternoon.

The threatened truce strike in this vicinity almost overshadowed the racing here. The race was expressed that might be longer than to run out the remainder of the meeting.

The track managers, however, assured the spectators that by predicting unbroken racing for the remaining two days of the term.

The Old Virginia provided the most spectacular contest of the day. Mock Orange went off to the pace making soon after the start. He was followed by Ormonda and Manouette, with Slippery Elm in close quarters and racing along the inner rail from a belated start, took third honors. Hounds and Fools, odds on favorite, faded and finally finished a well beaten last.

The day's proceedings opened with a surprise when George Rover, a recent acquisition of the George Peterson stable, took the juvenile event handily. The winner was one of the longest priced horses of the meeting, the mutuels paying \$1.25 on each horse.

P. J. Conroy claimed Cobalt Lane for \$1.25 and turned her over to C. O. Train.

John Barnett, a prominent Colorado, performed a visit to the track.

Several horses changed hands after the running of the third. Who Train went to Mrs. Frank Parrar, John Randolph got Betanda and J. W. Bean secured Penelope, all via the claiming route.

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